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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

ROBINSON, MARK A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 09/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/098,623

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA, SHIGEKI

Examiner

Mark A. Robinson

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 March 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the wire harness of claim 4 and the "tortuousness" of claim 17 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9,11-15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mochizuki 5579178.

Art Unit: 2872

Mochizuki shows in fig. 1 a mirror device including a stand(11) supporting a shaft(13) with upper and lower portions, case(15) with first fitting portion engaging the shaft (at a lower region thereof), mirror body(14), and motor base(30) mounted to the case and including a second fitting portion (see fig. 3) sealingly fitted with the upper shaft portion and including a first hole(32).

Regarding claims 3-9, Mochizuki further shows a motor(19), wire harness(40), a positioning or speed reduction mechanism(20,23) for engaging the motor and moving the mirror to use and folded positions, and ring gear(21) fixed to the shaft.

Regarding claims 18-20, the second fitting portion includes inner(34) and outer(36) cylinder portions on each side of the shaft upper portion with a portion(35) connecting the two cylinder portions, thereby forming a "faucet joint" with the shaft.

Regarding claims 11-15, in an alternative interpretation, Mochizuki shows a motor base (shown on the attached fig. 1 of Mochizuki as item 'A') over the opening of the case(15), and a cover(30) closingly fitted with the case opening and including a cap portion with first ring portion(34 or 36) which forms a hole concentric with the first hole, and wherein the second fitting portion includes a second ring portion (the portion of motor

Art Unit: 2872

base 'A' which engages shaft 13) which is concentric with the first hole and which has an inner circumference slightly larger than that of the first hole.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki.

Regarding claim 10, Mochizuki does not disclose the material from which the case and motor base are made. However, metal is very commonly used for these components in rear view mirror devices. Use of metal for these components would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan at the time of invention since metal is very sturdy and more durable than other materials such as plastic.

Regarding claim 17, Mochizuki does not show the interface between the second fitting portion and the shaft upper portion

Art Unit: 2872

to include "tortuousness." However, interfaces having ridges or other unevenness are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan at the time of invention to include such in Mochizuki's device in order to facilitate a smoothly functioning bearing surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not teach or suggest the specific cooperation between the first and second ring portions as set forth in the combination of claim 16.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kang and Hoogenboom et al show various arrangements for mirror pivoting devices.

Art Unit: 2872

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Robinson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3506.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn, can be reached at (703) 305-0024. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

MR

8/22/03


MARK A. ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

